

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 06446 091518Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

/070 W

----- 045798

R 091416Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 573

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SCEN, NI

SUBJECT: PRESS HARASSMENT CASE BLOWS UP

1. DETENTION AND BEATING OF JOURNALIST IN PORT
HARCOURT FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST HAS BLOWN UP INTO NATIONAL
SCANDAL, WITH PRESS UNANIMOUSLY DENOUNCING "GROSS ABUSE
OF POWER" AND CALLING FOR PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.
EXPRESS HAS SPECIFICALLY URGED REMOVAL OF GOVERNOR
DIETA-SPIFF, WHOSE AIDE-DE-CAMP LED ARRESTING PARTY, AND
OTHER PAPERS HAVE COME CLOSE TO ECHOING EXPRESS PROPOSAL.

2. VAIN AND EGOTISTICAL DIETE-SPIFF, WHO HAS
ENBARRASSED FMG BEFORE, MAY FINALLY BE ON SKIDS. UNLESS
HE CAN COME UP WITH SUITABLE SCAPEGOAT OR PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATION, FMG MAY SEE HIS TRANSFER AS BEST AVAILABLE
SOLUTION TO AWKWARD SITUATION WHICH INCIDENT HAS CREATED.
HOWEVER, STEP WOULD DOUBTLESS BE TAKEN ONLY
RELUCTANTLY, GIVEN PANDORA'S BOX NATURE OF
GUBERNATORIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND SCARCITY OF POTENTIAL
REPLACEMENTS OF RIVERS STATE ORIGIN. PROBLEM WILL
PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSED WITH GOWON WHEN HE RETURNS
THIS WEEKEND FROM OTTAWA.

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3. AIRGRAM A-177 BEING POUCHED AUGUST 9 HAS FULLER

DETAILS.
REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HARASSMENT, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
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Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS REINHARDT
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